IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims in the subject patent application as follows:

1. (Original) A catalyst system which consists essentially of (a) an organolithium compound, (b) a calcium alkoxide and (c) a lithium alkoxide.

2. (Original) A catalyst system as specified in claim 1 wherein the molar ratio of the lithium alkoxide to the calcium alkoxide is within the range of about 1:1 to about 20:1.

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3. (Currently Amended) A catalyst system as specified in claim 1 wherein the molar ratio of the ~~alkyl lithium~~ organolithium compound to the calcium alkoxide is within the range of about 1:1 to about 6:1.

4. (Currently Amended) A catalyst system as specified in claim 2 wherein the calcium alkoxide is selected from the group consisting of calcium dimethoxide, calcium diethoxide, calcium diisopropoxide, calcium di-n-butoxide, calcium di-sec-butoxide, calcium di-t-butoxide, calcium di(1,1-dimethylpropoxide), calcium di(1,2-dimethyl-propoxide), calcium di(1,1-dimethylbutoxide), calcium ~~di(1,10-dimethylpentoxide)~~ di(1,1-dimethylpentoxide), calcium di(2-ethyl-hexanoxide), calcium di(1-methylheptoxide), calcium diphenoxide, calcium di(p-methylphenoxide), calcium di(p-octylphenoxide), calcium di(p-nonylphenoxide), calcium di(p-dodecylphenoxide), calcium di(α-naphthoxide), calcium di(ß-naphthoxide), calcium ~~(o-methoxyphenoxide)~~ di(o-methoxyphenoxide), ~~calcium (o-methoxyphenoxide),~~ calcium di(m-methoxyphenoxide), calcium di(p-methoxy-phenoxide), calcium ~~(o-ethoxyphenoxide)~~ di(o-ethoxyphenoxide), [[and]] calcium ~~(4-methoxy-1-naphthoxide)~~ di(4-methoxy-1-naphthoxide), and calcium ~~tetrahydrofurfurylate~~ di-tetrahydrofurfurylate.

5. (Previously Presented) A catalyst system as specified in claim 4 wherein the organolithium compound is an organomonolithium compound.

6. (Previously Presented) A catalyst system as specified in claim 5

wherein the molar ratio of the lithium alkoxide to the calcium alkoxide is within the range of about 5:2 to about 10:1.

7. (Currently Amended) A catalyst system as specified in claim 5 wherein the molar ratio of the ~~alkyl lithium~~ organolithium compound to the calcium alkoxide is within the range of about 3:2 to about 4:1.

8. (Currently Amended) A catalyst system as specified in claim 7 wherein the lithium alkoxide is made by reacting an organolithium compound, metallic lithium or lithium hydride with an alcohol selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, normal-propyl alcohol, isopropyl alcohol, t-butanol, sec-butanol, cyclohexanol, octanol, 2-ethylhexanol, p-cresol, m-cresol, nonyl phenol, hexylphenol, tetrahydrofuryl alcohol, furfuryl alcohol, 3-methyltetrahydrofurfuryl alcohol, oligomer of tetrahydrofurfuryl alcohol, ethylene glycol monophenyl ether, ethylene glycol monobutyl ether, N,N-dimethylethanolamine, N,N-diethylethanolamine, N,N-dibutylethanolamine, N,N-diphenylethanolamine, N-methyldiethanolamine, N-ethyldiethanolamine, N-butyldiethanolamine, N-phenyldiethanolamine, N,N-dimethylpropanolamine, N,N-dibutylpropanolamine, N-methyldipropanolamine, N-ethyldipropanolamine, 1-(2-hydroxyethyl)pyrrolidine, 2-methyl-1-(2-hydroxyethyl)pyrrolidine, 1-piperidineethanol, 2-phenyl-1-piperidineethanol, 2-ethyl-1-piperidinepropanol, N-β-hydroxyethylmorpholine, ~~2-ethyl-N-8-hydroxyethylmorpholine,~~ 2-ethyl-N-β-hydroxyethylmorpholine, 1-piperazineethanol, 1-piperazinepropanol, N,N'bis(β-hydroxyethyl)piperazine, ~~N,N'-bis(Y-hydroxypropyl)-piperazine,~~ N,N'-bis(γ-hydroxypropyl)-piperazine, 2-(β-hydroxyethyl)pyridine and 2-(γ-hydroxypropyl)pyridine.

9. (Previously Presented) A catalyst system as specified in claim 8 wherein the organolithium compound is selected from the group consisting of ethyl lithium, isopropyl lithium, n-butyllithium, sec-butyllithium, tert-octyl lithium, phenyl lithium, 2-naphthyllithium, 4-butylphenyllithium, 4-tolyllithium, 4-phenylbutyllithium, cyclohexyl lithium and hexyl lithium.

10. (Previously Presented) A catalyst system as specified in claim 9 wherein the molar ratio of the lithium alkoxide to the calcium alkoxide is within the range of

about 3:1 to about 5:1.

11. (Previously Presented) A catalyst system as specified in claim 10 wherein the molar ratio of the alkyl lithium compound to the calcium alkoxide is within the range of about 2:1 to about 3:1.

12. (Original) A catalyst system which consists essentially of (a) an organometallic compound of a metal selected from the group consisting of lithium, potassium, magnesium, sodium, aluminum, zinc and tin, (b) a calcium compound and (c) a lithium alkoxide.

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13. (Currently Amended) A catalyst system as specified in claim 12 wherein said calcium compound is selected from the group consisting of calcium carboxylates, calcium phenolates, calcium amines, calcium amides, calcium halides, calcium nitrates, calcium sulfates, calcium phosphates, calcium ~~alcoholates~~ alkoxides and calcium ditetrahydrofurfurylate.

14. (Previously Presented) A catalyst system as specified in claim 13 wherein said organometallic compound is selected from the group consisting of organolithium compounds, organopotassium compounds, organomagnesium compounds and organosodium compound.

15. (Currently Amended) A catalyst system as specified in claim 14 wherein the calcium compound is selected from the group consisting of calcium ~~alcoholates~~ alkoxides, calcium carboxylates and calcium phenolates.

16. (Previously Presented) A catalyst system as specified in claim 15 wherein the organometallic compound is an organolithium compound.

17. (Currently Amended) A catalyst system as specified in claim 16 wherein the calcium compound is a calcium ~~alcoholate~~ alkoxide.

18. (Previously Presented) A catalyst system as specified in claim 12 wherein the molar ratio of the lithium alkoxide to the calcium compound is within the range of about 2:1 to about 20:1; and wherein the molar ratio organometallic compound to the calcium compound is within the range of about 1:1 to about 6:1.

19. (Previously Presented) A catalyst system as specified in claim 12 wherein the molar ratio of the lithium alkoxide to the calcium compound is within the range of about 5:2 to about 10:1; and wherein the molar ratio organometallic compound to the calcium compound is within the range of about 3:2 to about 4:1.

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20. (Previously Presented) A catalyst system as specified in claim 12 wherein the molar ratio of the lithium alkoxide to the calcium compound is within the range of about 3:1 to about 5:1; and wherein the molar ratio organometallic compound to the calcium compound is within the range of about 2:1 to about 3:1.

21-28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) A catalyst system as specified in claim 1 wherein said catalyst system [[is]] further ~~comprised of~~ comprises an amine.